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FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8759
INFO RUCNSAD/SOUTHERN AF DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY COLLECTIVE
RUEHLGB/AMEMBASSY KIGALI 1395
RUEHKM/AMEMBASSY KAMPALA 3469
RUEHNR/AMEMBASSY NAIROBI 1335
RUEHMS/AMEMBASSY MUSCAT 0077
RUEHNY/AMEMBASSY OSLO 0291
RUEHSM/AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM 0298
RUEHOT/AMEMBASSY OTTAWA 0845
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 0129
RHMFISS/CDR USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE
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SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ZANZIBAR/PEMBA: DONOR JOINT STATEMENT

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 517

¶1. Embassy released the following text to media August 13, on behalf of Canada, Japan, and Norway. Sweden, on behalf of the EU Heads of Mission, issued a statement with identical substance.

Begin text:

Statement by Heads of Mission in Tanzania of Canada, Japan, Norway and the United States of America on the Voter Registration Process in Zanzibar.

We, the undersigned Heads of Mission, would like to underline that the right to vote is a fundamental democratic principle.

It is the responsibility of the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania to ensure that all Tanzanians will have the possibility to exercise this right in the 2010 elections.

The Heads of Mission are seriously concerned about what appear to be flawed elements in the voter registration process in Zanzibar. Specifically, we are concerned about reports that many Tanzanian citizens on Pemba are facing obstacles to obtain a Zanzibar ID, which has become the principal criterion for voter registration on Zanzibar, and that the issuance of Zanzibar IDs is subject to irregular influence.

The Heads of Mission expect the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania and the Revolutionary Government of Zanzibar to ensure that all necessary measures are taken to rectify the current shortcomings of the voter registration process. The totality of the changes should ensure that no Tanzanians, including Zanzibaris, will be denied the right to vote in the 2010 elections.

Simultaneously, the Heads of Mission strongly encourage all political parties and groups to refrain from any violence and use peaceful means to express their opinions and differences.

End text.

ANDRE